



# Plymouth Garden Club

March 2025

Linda O'Neill, President

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Club Flower - Plymouth Gentian

Website: [PlymouthGardenClub.org](http://PlymouthGardenClub.org)

## Membership

Active 90

Associate 11

Life: 4

## Boxwood and Blight

By Joy Sand

For more than a decade a fungal disease called boxwood blight has been ravaging the popular evergreens, famous for giving structure to gardens worldwide. Pachysandra, as well as boxwood (Buxus), are falling victim to the fungus that causes tan or brown spots on both surfaces of the leaves. The leaves drop, weakening the plant that eventually dies. White spores appear on twigs and stems. The disease spreads readily on fallen, infected leaves and by wind driven rain.

The leaves die from the bottom of the plant upward, making the foliage plant unsightly. New cultivars resistant to the fungus and boxwood leaf miner are being introduced. Named 'New Gen Independence' - Zone 5b to 9 - range from mid-sized rounded shrubs to specimens under 2 ft tall. The 'Better Boxwood' collection - Zone 5 to 9 - was developed in Europe and comes in four varieties: 'Skylight', 'Renaissance', 'Babylon Beauty' and 'Heritage'. Readily available alternatives to  
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**Our March meeting will be held on Wednesday, March at the Chiltonville Church.** Social time begins at 12:15 PM. The meeting will start at 1pm. Our program will be 'Gardening is Murder from a Husband's Point of View' with Neal Sanders. He is a gardener, lecturer and author of 15 books. Neal and his wife Betty are very involved in creating gardens and manage a vibrant 75 plot community garden that produces enough vegetables to feed all members and provide 2 carloads of food to local food banks weekly. Betty has become an ardent horticulturalist, a Lifetime Master Gardener and an in-demand speaker on gardening and environmental topics. Neal says he was roped in, but don't let him fool you, he has done the heavy lifting in every garden the couple has created. A business meeting will follow the program before our traditional tea.

**Hospitality:** The March Tea committee will be chaired by Debbie Wells and Karen Baker with help from Rebecca Conroy, Myrna Fossum, Marge Galletta, Ellie Gilbert, Cathy Grote, Ellen Sexton, and Susan Weitzmann.

**New Member:** We welcome Susan Soukhanov, 15 River St. Plymouth, 508-747-6772 cell- 339-793-1470, email: [asoukhanovmsn.com](mailto:asoukhanovmsn.com) to our club.

**April Flower Arranging Workshop:** Jean Dobachesky will lead a workshop on April 9 from 10am to noon before the general meeting to learn techniques to create a small Mass Design. If you are new to the Club or to floral arranging this workshop is designed for you. Flowers, greens, container and oasis will be provided; please bring snippers/scissors and a box to bring your arrangement home. The cost will be \$25 payable by cash or check to Plymouth Garden Club. Limit of 10-15 participants. There will be a sign up sheet at the March meeting or you can call Susan Denehy at 508-317-4130 to reserve your place.

**Books and Blossoms Four is More:** On April 25 and 26 our Club will again present this fun event in the Felhow Room in the Library. Members are asked to interpret a book title with a table setting on a card table. You provide a place setting with a drinking vessel (no silverware), floral component and accessories. Tables will be covered with a white tablecloth to the floor. You can provide your own tablecloth or topper. Set up will be Friday, April 25th at 10 am. Library visitors will be invited to view the tables and play a game to guess the book title of each table starting at noon Friday. To learn more or reserve your spot and choose your book title, please call President Linda O'Neill at 508-759-1870. We will need hostesses/docents during the Books and Blossoms open hours on Friday afternoon and Saturday. Please volunteer for a 2 hour shift on the sign up sheet at the meeting. There will be an open reception from 4-6pm in the Felhow Room on Friday. Any donation of finger foods will be greatly appreciated.



boxwood include bayberry - Zone 3-8 - and salt tolerant including road salt. It produces small blue-grey berries that are attractive to birds. Growing to 4 feet tall, bayberry is easily controlled by pruning branches for decorations.

Globe Arborvitae - Zone 4 to 8 - provides rounded specimens for borders, foundation planting or along walks. During cold weather the foliage may turn bronze. They are a favorite of deer.

Yew - Zone 6 to 9 - tolerate heat and humidity. The Yew grows slowly and responds well to pruning, providing greens for holiday arrangements. Yew branches figure prominently in still life European paintings as early as the 1500's.

Deer enjoy Yews, too.

Careful monitoring of new plants will help keep boxwood blight out of the gardens. Infected plants must be destroyed. There is no treatment at present.

Garden on.... Joy

*"Joy is in looking and  
comprehending Nature's most  
beautiful gifts" - Albert Einstein*

## **Come Grow With Us!**

2024 - 2025

Our 96th Year

Founded 1929 • Federated 1971

**New Scholarship Opportunity:** Last year the Board discussed offering some financial assistance to a graduating senior from Plymouth schools who might not be planning on going to a 4 year college but is interested in pursuing a career in gardening, farming, floral or landscape design work by attending a 2 year Jr. or Community College or an apprenticeship. This spring we are offering a \$250 subsidy to a family member of a club member. If you have a relative graduating this June who is eager to learn more and try their hand in a botanically oriented field please contact Geri Williams at 508-833-4355 or [geri3williams@comcast.net](mailto:geri3williams@comcast.net).

**Garden Therapy:** Susan Weitzmann has volunteered to lead a visit to **Plymouth Rehabilitation** on South St. in Plymouth to help the residents make small arrangements for their rooms on **March 20 at 1:30pm**. She needs several more members to assist. To volunteer see Susan at the meeting or call her at 443-391-3951. Nancy Carafoli will be leading a Garden Therapy visit to Newfield House in April and will also need volunteers. Please contact Nancy if interested in helping in April at 508-746-5703.

**Plant Sale:** Our next big fundraiser will be on **Saturday, May 17th** on the front lawn of the Library. The proceeds of the sale will fund our student scholarships and various community projects including the library beds, purchasing seedling trees for Plymouth School students and other garden and town beautification projects. We need all members to participate. You can start annual flower and tomato seeds now so they will be a good size to sell by May. As you begin cleaning up your gardens look for plants that could benefit from dividing or have spread where you don't want them. Many perennials benefit from dividing them in early spring and will respond well. If you pot them up in April, they will be healthy, good sized plants for the sale. It is a policy of the Club that all members contribute 5-10 plants to the sale or make a donation \$15.

**June Luncheon:** Paula Butterfield, Dee Dee Dunlap and Karen Baker have been working hard to plan a wonderful Annual Luncheon on June 11th. It will be held at East Bay Grill. Cost will be \$43 and you can pay at the April and May meetings. See the flyer accompanying this newsletter for menu and details.

**Membership Update:** Any members who have been in our Club eight years or longer are welcomed to transfer to Associate Membership next year. This may be especially beneficial for members who are finding it difficult to attend meeting. Remember...Associate members are not required to serve on the tea or other committees.

**Policy Addition:** At the Board Meeting in order to clarify what makes a quorum for a meeting to conduct official business, a motion was passed unanimously to add Policy 8 to our Yearbook page 57, stating 10 Board members must be in attendance to constitute a quorum to vote on motions; at General meetings a quorum will consist of 30 members.

**Memorial Book:** The book 'Plants for the Winter Garden' by Warren Leach was donated by PGC to the Library in memory of June Aronson.